Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1p,

Socioligical Background

HEALTH AND SANITATION

433 In normal times Estonia never suffered from food shortages. There was plenty of food; it has been estimated that Estonia could have fed three times her population during her independence period.

164 Diseases. Tuberculosis and cancer were the diseases which had the highest mortality rate. Rheumatism was frequent. Smallpox was almost eliminated in Estonia by the compulsory vaccination of children, and cases of infantile paralysis were very rare.

744 Estonia's public health services were decentralized in 1928. The actual work then was carried out by local self-governments, but was organized and controlled by the Public Health

744 and Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Each town and county had its own doctor whose duties were to organize public health service in his administrative unit.

743 The hygienic conditions and the type and availa-
758 bility of medical care vastly improved during the independence period, and as a result the death rate was decreased. Special care was taken to make medical aid available to mothers and children by means of the establishment of free advisory centers. There were 28 of these centers in 1939, each headed by a fully trained
[248] doctor. Homes also for mothers and infants were established where unmarried mothers could stay for a prescribed length of time.

744 Quarantines. The Estonian government operated an observation station in Narva, where

744 everyone crossing the border was given a complete physical examination, and a quarantine station in Tallinn, which interned sailors with communicable diseases.

743 Hospitals. There were in 1936 in Estonia:

55 hospitals (In 1938, 72 hospitals with 4979 beds)
6 tuberculosis sanatoriums
4 leprosaria
4 mental institutions
86 ambulatory medical aid centers
24 advice centers for mothers and children
10 tuberculosis advice centers

759 Medical personnel. The medical personnel in Estonia was almost tripled during independence

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1p,

Sociological Background

HEALTH AND SANITATION

262 One of the old Votic foods was mäḫchä or mähjä 'dish made of rye meal and malt.'

For weddings three wedding breads (kursi) of different sizes were baked and were placed on top each other on the table, the biggest at the bottom and the smaller ones above it. Before baking, decorations were pressed on them with whiskey glasses.

● 744 The hygienic conditions of the Votes were reported to be "quite satisfactory" in czarist times.